

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

AUGUST 18, 2009

Over the last few years, there have been significant regulatory changes made in the well water approval process as well as in the construction aspects of onsite wastewater treatment systems in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Division, being a key regulator in these land use activities, has frequently been challenged by the property owners and industry contractors alike, regarding these regulatory changes. Examples include: the Fire Rebuild procedures; the Water Treatment Device procedures for treatment of well water with elevated levels of primary inorganic chemicals; and the proposed draft Ordinance pertaining to non-conventional onsite wastewater systems.

Of great concern is the need for enhanced communication with industry to discuss these changes and confront the challenges that may be faced upon implementation of new laws. Of equal concern are the methods to be used for regulation and enforcement. Increasing communication would allow industry members the opportunity to discuss proposed changes in regulatory process. This would give the regulated community both the ability to influence the proposed changes and greater lead time to bring about the necessary alterations in construction practices. When contractors are better able to communicate the nature and need of regulatory changes to the property owner, more effective decisions can be made by the property owner, and overall regulatory efforts will receive greater support.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Health to establish a technical advisory committee, comprised of water and wastewater industry professionals, adjoining County representatives and appropriate members from the Department of Public Health. The purpose of this advisory committee would be to review proposed ordinances, policies, procedures and guidelines prior to implementation to preview potential impacts.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Department of Public Health and the Environmental Health Division, under the leadership of the Director of Public Health, make appointments of five to eight members, to act as a “technical advisory” committee to “advise” the Department of Public Health. This committee shall:

1. Meet monthly until the current issues regarding Water Treatment Devices and Non-Conventional Waste Water System issues have been resolved;
2. Meet quarterly upon resolution of the current issues;
3. Hold three “outreach” meetings annually to receive input from the general communities; and
4. Report quarterly to the Board of Supervisors on the status of the group.

The Board of Supervisors shall review the committee activities at the end of a two-year period to determine if it shall be subject to sunset or renewal.

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MDA:pc